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**Officials Join Lt. Gov. Skillman to Celebrate Delphi
as a Stellar Community**

DELPHI - Lt. Governor Becky Skillman joined Delphi Mayor Randy Strasser as well as city and state officials this afternoon to celebrate the city's selection as a Hoosier "Stellar Community".

Launched in 2011 by Lt. Governor Skillman, Stellar Communities is a collaboration between INDOT, the Office of Community and Rural Affairs, the Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority and the Indiana Finance Authority to help fund communities' strategic plans.

"The State of Indiana is only as strong as its individual communities," Lt. Governor Skillman said. "Soon Delphi will be transformed and ready for new economic development. Our state agencies are ready to help execute the city's ambitious plans."

Delphi's Stellar Communities application will make the downtown area more inviting for business and improve housing options in the city. The community plans to:

- Connect the community with a multi-use trail between the downtown, neighborhoods and the Wabash and Erie Canal Park and Interpretive Center
- Restore historic downtown buildings with architecturally appropriate facades
- Create a pedestrian-friendly downtown by incorporating new streetscaping, lighting and on-street parking
- Restore and expand the Delphi Opera House
- Re-energize the historic downtown neighborhoods with affordable, renovated, owner-occupied housing
- Create a railroad quiet zones by re-equipping railroad crossings that would eliminate the need for trains to use horns
- Build vibrant loft residences, steps away from downtown grocery, shops and restaurants

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The total proposed cost of all Delphi's Stellar Community projects is estimated at more than \$19.9 million. The State of Indiana expects over the next three years to invest more than \$20 million in the 2012 Stellar Communities, which also includes Princeton. Delphi will invest an additional \$3,333,500 in local and private funds.

Funding for the initiatives comes from multiple existing federal funds. State agencies will continue to offer grant programs to local units of government not participating in Stellar Communities.

"Winning the Stellar Communities grant means so much to Delphi and our whole community. When the projects are complete, we will see revitalization of our historic neighborhoods and an invigorated downtown district," Mayor Strasser said. "It also positions us to capitalize on economic development opportunities created by the Hoosier Heartland Corridor for the entire county and region. We are very excited to partner with the State of Indiana on this very Stellar program and I can't wait."

Delphi and Princeton join Greencastle and North Vernon, which were selected as Stellar Communities for the pilot program in March of 2011. To learn more about Stellar Communities and the pilot programs' projects, visit www.in.gov/ocra.

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Lt. Governor Becky Skillman oversees the Office of Community and Rural Affairs, the Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority, the Office of Energy Development, the Office of Tourism Development, and the State Department of Agriculture.

To receive email updates from Lt. Governor Skillman, sign up at www.in.gov/lg/2941.htm